



## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable John M. Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2452 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

One of the core objectives of the incentive auction is to provide for a healthy broadcast industry, and we are working to ensure that it does. Importantly, participation in the incentive auction is completely voluntary and no full-power or Class A low power television (LPTV) stations will be forced to participate or go off the air.

As required by the Spectrum Act, all full power and Class A broadcast television stations that do not participate in the reverse auction, or participate and do not submit winning bids, will stay on the air and either remain on their present channels or be repacked to new channels in the same band. The Spectrum Act also stipulates that the Commission use "all reasonable efforts" to preserve the coverage areas and populations served by full power and Class A stations that remain on the air. The Commission will provide broadcasters with the full protections required by the statute.

The Spectrum Act, however, decrees that TV translator and non-Class A LPTV stations are not eligible to participate in the reverse auction and are not entitled to preservation of their service in the repacking. Recognizing the potential impact on LPTV and translator stations, the Commission has sought comment on, and currently is considering, measures to help ensure that the important programming they provide continues to reach viewers.

With respect to the amount of spectrum that the Commission will reclaim in rural areas, in the *Incentive Auction Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* the Commission identified the ability to accommodate varying levels of spectrum recovery in different markets as an important objective in designing the new 600 MHz band plan. By implementing a band plan that supports variation between markets, we would not be forced to limit the auction to the amount of spectrum available in the least cleared markets. However, our goal is to recover a consistent amount of spectrum in the vast majority of the country's markets and, while we may recover less spectrum in constrained markets, such as some urban areas, we are not contemplating clearing more than our national baseline in rural markets.

Page 2—The Honorable John M. Shimkus

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Mignon L. Clyburn



## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
204 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

One of the core objectives of the incentive auction is to provide for a healthy broadcast industry, and we are working to ensure that it does. Importantly, participation in the incentive auction is completely voluntary and no full-power or Class A low power television (LPTV) stations will be forced to participate or go off the air.

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Page 2—The Honorable Bill Shuster

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Mignon L. Clyburn





## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
503 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

One of the core objectives of the incentive auction is to provide for a healthy broadcast industry, and we are working to ensure that it does. Importantly, participation in the incentive auction is completely voluntary and no full-power or Class A low power television (LPTV) stations will be forced to participate or go off the air.

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Mignon L. Clyburn



## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2466 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Page 2—The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson

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Mignon L. Clyburn





## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
231 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

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Mignon L. Clyburn



## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thornberry:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

One of the core objectives of the incentive auction is to provide for a healthy broadcast industry, and we are working to ensure that it does. Importantly, participation in the incentive auction is completely voluntary and no full-power or Class A low power television (LPTV) stations will be forced to participate or go off the air.

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Mignon L. Clyburn





## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Scott Tipton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely,



Mignon L. Clyburn



## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Tim Walz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1722 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the incentive auctions as they affect rural areas, particularly the effect on TV translators. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Mignon L. Clyburn





## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 21, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner

The Honorable Don Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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